



PO BOX 277 ~ OLD CHELSEA STATION  
NEW YORK NY 10113-0277

**Chelsea Opera presents - *Bending Towards the Light . . . A Jazz Nativity* in Utica, NY**

Wednesday, December 20<sup>h</sup>  
Time 7:00pm  
Runtime 1h 15m

St. Mary of Mount Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Church  
648 Jay Street, Utica, NY

Free Admission - free will donations accepted

info: [http://www.chelseaopera.org/Jazz\\_Nativity\\_about.html](http://www.chelseaopera.org/Jazz_Nativity_about.html)  
kenos@chelseaopera.org or lpriore@chelseaopera.org  
info: 718-432-9099

*Bending Towards the Light....a Jazz Nativity*

A Jazz opera - "The Christmas story told in thoroughly American musical terms". It features opera and jazz artists of note weaving together word, dance, song and musical instruments to tell the story in a new way, composed and arranged by Anne Phillips.

featured Singer and Archangel: Leonarda Priore - former Utica native

Host: Anne D. Phillips

The Kings:

Max Pollack, King/tap

Joe Carello, King/saxophone

Joe Magnarelli, King/trumpet

Alexandra Priore, Special Guest Singer

With the voices of: Gabby Carr, Ceara Windhausen, Katelyn Dietz, Jeff Welcher, Cheyenna Gordon, Vaughn Faison, Benjamin Lawson

Special guest Dancers from Utica Dance Studio  
and other musical guests

The Central New York Jazz Nativity Ensemble:

Jeff Stockham, trumpet

Frank Grosso, alto sax/flute/piccolo

Mike Dubaniewicz, tenor & bari sax/clarinet

Melissa Gardiner, trombone

Andrew Carroll, piano/keyboards

Rick Montalbano, piano/keyboards

Steve Brown, guitar

Tom Brigandi, bass

Jimmy Johns, drums/percussion

directed by Beth Ann Kennedy

conducted by Anne Phillips

produced by Leonarda Priore/Chelsea Opera

church music direction by Peter Elacqua

Utica production assistant – Anne Elacqua

*Bending Towards the Light*, the jazz annual holiday tradition in New York City will return to Utica, NY for a second year offering a special free performance dedicated in memory and celebration of Utica attorney Nicholas S. Priore, Esq. who passed unexpectedly on 12/20/07. The Jazz Nativity is the traditional Nativity story told in a fresh way, through the union of Jazz and opera. It is a holiday show unlike any other, composed and arranged by Anne Phillips.

78 words

*Bending Toward The Light*, composed and arranged by Anne Phillips, originated in 1985, when Ms. Phillips was asked to create a Christmas benefit at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in NYC. That first performance featured Dave Brubeck, Clark Terry, Gene Bertoncini and Tommy Flanagan, among others. Over the past 30 years the work has been presented at Birdland, Lincoln Center, and Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, among other venues, with a long list of luminary performers including Tito Puente, Lionel Hampton, Phil Woods, Jon Hendricks, and Paquito D'Rivera. Music director Bob Kindred's haunting rendition of "Silent Night" created the opening mood in the darkened church that very first night just as it does today.

112 words

keywords:

Jazz, Nativity, Kings, Christmas, Phillips, "Kindred Spirits", "Chelsea Opera", Utica, Free